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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Jean-Marc Hoscheit (Luxembourg), on the basis of informal consultations

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2]

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which it decided to establish, under the regular agenda item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits", a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Affirming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2008,[3] and recognizing the impacts of the financial, economic, social and environmental challenges identified therein on the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2004 on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the

[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.
[3] E/2008/L.10.

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Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",[4]

Taking note of the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries: Time for Action,[5] adopted at the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul on 9 and 10 July 2007 on the theme "Making globalization work for the least developed countries",

Recalling its resolution 2007/31 of 27 July 2007,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 61/1 of 19 September 2006 and 62/203 of 19 December 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[6]

2. *Reaffirms* that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[2] constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership aimed at accelerating sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries;

3. *Welcomes* the declaration[7] adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;

4. *Also welcomes* the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and notes the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[8] as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

5. *Further welcomes* the continued economic and social progress of many least developed countries, which has led to the fact that a number of countries are proceeding towards graduation from the list of least developed countries and that some of them are on track to achieving the growth and investment targets of the Programme of Action by 2010;

6. *Remains concerned*, however, about the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address, within the time frame set by the Programme of Action, areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in

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[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/59/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 49.

[5] A/62/216, annex.

[6] A/63/77-E/2008/61.

[7] General Assembly resolution 61/1.

[8] See A/61/117, annex I.

some least developed countries through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

7. *Expresses its deep concern* that the number of people living in extreme poverty remains significantly high in the least developed countries, while an increasing number of people are at risk of malnutrition, in particular children and women, and recognizes that there are important linkages between development, poverty eradication and gender equality;

8. *Stresses* that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action;

9. *Underlines* the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners must be guided by an integral approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions encompassing:

(a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;

(b) Ensuring good governance at both the national and international levels as essential for the implementation of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action;

(c) Building human and institutional capacities;

(d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;

(e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;

(f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;

(g) Mobilizing financial resources;

10. *Reaffirms* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

11. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management;

12. *Urges* development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

13. *Welcomes* the graduation of Cape Verde from the list of least developed countries;

14. *Reiterates its invitation* to all development and trading partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance or technical assistance provided to the graduated country and to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status or reducing them in a phased manner;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners to assist the least developed countries in translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities and to collaborate with and provide support to, as appropriate, the relevant national development forums and follow-up mechanisms;

16. *Stresses* the crucial importance of integrated and coordinated follow-up, monitoring and reporting for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

17. *Also stresses*, within the context of the annual global reviews, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the need to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action sector by sector, and in this regard invites the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, consistent with their respective mandates, to report on the progress made in its implementation using quantifiable criteria and indicators to be measured against the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

18. *Reiterates its invitation* to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, at the Secretariat level, the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring and review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, including through such coordination mechanisms as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-agency Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goals Indicators;

20. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the trust fund established for the participation of the least developed countries in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Council, and expresses its appreciation to those countries which have made voluntary contributions;

21. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Council, expresses, in this regard, its deep appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established for this purpose by the Secretary-General, invites donor countries to

continue to support the participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including by contributing in an adequate and timely manner, to the special trust fund, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced and to provide information on the status of the trust fund;

22. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure follow-up to their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

23. *Recalls* paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action on holding a fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries towards the end of the current decade, and notes the steps being undertaken in this regard, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/203;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to step up appropriate measures for the implementation of the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[9] in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an analytical and results-oriented annual progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.

[9] A/62/322.